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LAST ISSUE

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LAST ISSUE

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-96-156
Monday
12 August 1996

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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-96-156

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Burundi

Burundi: Hutu Rebel Leader Sets Conditions for Talks

LD0908170296 Paris Radio France International in French 1630 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Burundi, the leader of the Hutu rebel movement has not ruled out talks with Major Pierre Buyoya, the new de facto president. However he has set a condition for the talks: a report by an international commission of inquiry must clear the new strongman of any participation in the 193 coup d'etat.

In spite of this, the rebel leader claimed that he is sceptical that the commission will come to such a decision. [passage omitted]

Burundi: 22 Reported Killed in Attack in Northwest

EA1008162996 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in English 1130 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite of this [peace] campaign violence is still (?abreast) in some areas in the country.

[Words indistinct] 22 people are reported to have been killed in an attack carried out last night against the lycee [high school] of Cibitoke and Cibitoke center. The victims comprise a 12-member family massacred.

[Paris AFP in English at 1412 GMT on 10 August in a Bujumbura-dated report adds: "The radio said the final toll could be much higher.

"It was the first attack by the rebels who are fighting Burundian troops, dominated by ethnic Tutsis, to be announced since new Burundian leader Pierre Buyoya, also a Tutsi, seized power in an army-backed coup on July 25.

"The rebels attacked a high school and a Tutsi refugee camp near Cibitoke on Friday [9 August], killing 12 members of one family and 10 other people."

Burundi: Buyoya Visits Northeastern Province; Security Improving

EA1008210496 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in Kirundi 1700 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The head of state, Pierre Buyoya, visited the people of Muyinga, after visiting the provinces of Gitega and Ngozi. Before you hear the speeches which were made, our colleague, Claver Nzeyimana tells us in brief how the welcome ceremonies were organized:

[Nzeyimana] First he met military leaders before going to Muyinga stadium where he was welcomed by a big crowd which was dancing and praising the new

regime. Citizens from all corners of the province of Muyinga were present. Their songs and dances praised President Buyoya and named him the saviour and the hope for Burundi. [passage omitted] Later the president spoke and explained the reason behind the change of government in Burundi, meant to save Burundi which was on the edge of the abyss. He reiterated his program which is, in brief, as follows: to restore peace so the killings are stopped, to bring about democracy by way of talks involving all Burundians and to work for the recovery of our economy. He then called on Muyinga people to support the regime by supporting its programs, maintaining peace and tranquillity so that killings stop throughout Muyinga province. He asked them to make Muyinga province a model for other provinces.

Later, President Buyoya met provincial civil servants and representatives of other institutions in our country. They discussed their problems and he gave them answers. We shall bring you more details in Sunday's [11 August] bulletins.

[Announcer] As you heard, in his speech the Muyinga governor, Lieutenant Colonel Boniface Banuma, said Muyinga citizens had welcomed the new regime and its program to restore peace in the country. He said peace was improving tremendously throughout the province following the advent of the new regime:

[Begin Banuma recording] The other clear proof that peace is being restored is that many citizens who were members of the armed gangs have been surrendering their arms. Even those who had not yet received arms come to the authorities to declare that they will no longer get involved in killings. Burundians who had fled to neighboring countries have been returning home. A clear proof of this is that more than 700 Burundian refugees recently returned to Giteranyi commune. Burundians who had fled their homes have been visiting their areas and those who farmed have harvested. Some even ask for accommodation and get it. This is in addition to those who have already resettled in their places of origin. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Burundi: Prime Minister Discusses Sanctions, National Assembly

EA1008195096 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in Kirundi 1700 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At an extraordinary meeting held on Friday [9 August], Burundian ministers said a national assembly with representatives of all Burundians should be set up.

The prime minister, Firmin Ndimira, gave details to our colleague Innocent Nsabimana. He also talked about

neighboring countries' economic sanctions against our country:

[Begin recording] [Ndimira] There are executive and judiciary institutions and there is the legislative institution. There is nothing new about this since that is stipulated in the Constitution. The most difficult question is to know how the national assembly members will be selected. We believe all those who were members of parliament, who were elected by the people, could continue to serve as members if they wish.

The second thing is that recently we saw there were problems related to ethnic affiliations and parties, though we do not wish to see such things reappearing, since parties have been suspended. In reorganizing the national assembly we want to enlarge it so that it represents all Burundians, bringing in men and women who can help settle disputes between parties, so that we can dispense with the constant disputes related to ethnic groups or parties. That is how we think things should be organized and we will give them powers to control the way the government implements its programs. This should not involve opposition, but a way of working together. They should present views in the interests of citizens, without causing friction. We believe those people who join those there already will be people with experience, who are wise, and who can settle disputes from all corners of the country, and can help develop it. [passage omitted]

[Nsabimana] The current leadership in Burundi seems not to have been welcomed by neighboring countries such as Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. They have even decided to impose sanctions on us. What are you doing in order to get the sanctions lifted?

[Ndimira] We think most of the people who decided on sanctions against us are those who do not have representatives in our country, they do not have information on the realities of the positive aspects of the coup and the fact that it brought new hope. Our first job will be to show them the positive aspects of the new regime, taking into consideration the fact that there was no longer any leadership.

The second area, where we call on Burundians to assist us, is to show there is progress by restoring peace in the country, so that those countries will later reverse their decisions. The third thing is that instead of death, we decided to accept enduring hardship, including economic hardship, so that mothers can bring up their children and go on with their daily lives and be able to return home without problems. We think all those who decided on sanctions and who think we came to power for personal benefit will lift them if we restore peace.

[Nsabimana] It is also said that the sanctions have been decided in violation of international laws and conventions, including agreements signed in our subregional organizations. What do you have to say?

[Ndimira] This is a very important question and should be dealt with carefully. That is why we set up a group of experts on the matter to check for us. If we find there are international conventions which have been violated, we shall call for arbitration. However we cannot wait for that. That cannot stop the country from regaining peace in the near future. I would like to reassure Burundians so that they do not listen to those who say shortages are coming. We know that we have the means to take care of people in the coming months. In the meantime we continue to send representatives to those who believe that they can help. All in all we believe that God helps those who help themselves. [end recording]

Burundi: Ndimira Sees National Assembly as Reconciliation Instrument

LD1008202596 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Three weeks after the coup d'etat carried out by the Tutsi-dominated army, the new strongman of Burundi, Major Pierre Buyoya, has announced the establishment of a transitional national assembly.

This new parliament will include the members of the National Assembly, suspended at the time of the putsch, at a time when Burundi is completely isolated by the sanctions decreed on 31 July, at Arusha.

This decision is looked on as a gesture of appeasement toward the countries of the Great Lakes region and toward the international community. However, according to the Burundi prime minister, the transitional national assembly will above all be an instrument of national reconciliation. Pascal-Firmin Ndimira is interviewed by our special correspondent in Bujumbura, Gabriel Kahn.

[Begin recording] [Ndimira] It involves an enlarged national assembly compared to the original National Assembly, because the form that existed previously showed what the limits were in terms of its clarity of work, taking into account the politico-ethnic divisions that we have observed.

Thus, we considered that in order to achieve the aim of bringing peace, security, and reconciliation — and to favor the reconciliation of the elements of the Burundi people — it was effectively necessary to take into account all the sensibilities, to open it so that all the people could feel it, and it will have powers at least

equivalent to those that the National Assembly had previously in respect to the government's agreement.

[Kahn] A number of deputies of the former National Assembly have gone abroad. Will you invite them to return and participate in this transitional assembly?

[Ndimira] Certainly. Certainly. All those who were in it and who want to rejoin this institution are urged to rejoin it. [end recording]

Burundi: Business Community Condemns Sanctions

EA0908221396 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in Kirundi 1700 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Businessmen in Burundi who are members of the Burundi National Chamber of Commerce, the French-Burundian Association of Businessmen, the Belgian-Burundian Association of Businessmen, the Association of Burundian Employers, and the Association of Banks in Burundi held a meeting today at which they formed an institution charged with defending their socioeconomic rights which in brief they call the Committee for the Defense of Socioeconomic Interests. They also denounced the recent sanctions that were unjustly imposed on Burundi in total disregard of international conventions. They urged the United Nations and the UN Security Council to carefully study the bad effects the sanctions might have, particularly on refugees and displaced people, so that the international community can avoid supporting the countries which have decided to implement the unjust sanctions against Burundi. [passage omitted]

Burundi: Commentary Notes Peace in Country Since Change of Regime

EA0908222296 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in Kirundi 1700 GMT 9 Aug 96

[Commentary by Jerome Ntaguzwa]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Since the change of regime in Burundi on 25 July, a number of African countries have said there is a need to impose sanctions on Burundi. As you can see for yourselves, the insecurity has subsided compared to the recent past when there were numerous meetings which were alleged to be taking place to help Burundi out of its crisis. The peace we see in the country should be a telling sign to the international community that something has indeed changed. International organizations like UNICEF have already stated their position that the sanctions will have bad consequences for Burundians, so our neighbors and the international community should come out to assist Burundians to meet their daily needs. The United Nations recently called on the OAU to change its position because the measures it has adopted could

plunge Burundi into crisis, and those they are trying to save, the people, are the ones who may become the victims. [passage omitted]

Chad

Chad: Presidential Decree Reappoints Prime Minister Koibla

AB1108193896 Ndjamena Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French 1900 GMT 11 Aug 96

[Presidential decree issued in Ndjamena on 11 August — read by (Kinset Yaote Denosi), Chadian secretary general of the government; live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Decree No. 389/PR/96 on the appointment of the prime minister and head of government: the president of the republic, head of state, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, considering the Constitution, decrees:

Article 1. Mr. Djimasta Koibla has been appointed prime minister and head of government.

Article 2. The present decree which abrogates Decree No. 194/PR/96 of 19 April 1996, will be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued in Ndjamena on 11 August 1996

[Signed] Lieutenant General Idriss Deby

Rwanda

Rwanda: Refugees Continue To Cross Border From Burundi

AB0908174796 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kigali, 9 Aug (AFP) — Rwandan refugees continued to head home from northern Burundi Friday [9 August] despite the closure of the border under sanctions slapped on Bujumbura by the Kigali government, a UN official said.

"For the moment, refugees are crossing the border," said Paul Stromberg, Kigali-based spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, adding that they were awaiting clarification on the situation from authorities.

Around 8,600 Rwandan refugees of Hutu origin returned home from Burundi of their own free will Thursday, taking the total number of returnees to around 17,000 in a week. [passage omitted]

Rwanda: Rwandan Refugees Allowed To Cross Border From Burundi

AB0908194596 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 9 Aug 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program hosted by Chris Bickerton]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Rwandan Government has announced that it is imposing sanctions on its neighbor, Burundi, from today. This has come as something of a surprise. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Bickerton] Well, I have got Paul Stromberg of the UNHCR in Kigali on the line. He has been overseeing the return of the Rwandan refugees from Burundi this week in their thousands. Paul, what is the situation now?

[Stromberg] Well, there was some confusion at the border today for a period of about three hours. In the middle of the day, trucks going back to Burundi to fetch more refugees were not allowed to cross. That eventually was cleared up this afternoon, I think by the authorities of Kigali at local levels, and so it has been able to continue into the evening today.

[Bickerton] So, you have been bringing back refugees from Burundi pretty well all day again?

[Stromberg] That is correct, except for this confusion at the middle of the day. The final figure for the day was about 5,200 — lower than yesterday's 8,600, but still there is considerable momentum in the camp of Magara for return.

[Bickerton] So how many are left behind in Burundi now?

[Stromberg] Well, in Magara right now there would be about 32,000 refugees. There is a second camp, (Rukua Migabor), of about 13,000. So we still have over 40,000 refugees but this movement shows every sign of continuing tomorrow in Magara. We hope we can bring the figure back up to around 8,000 to 10,000 tomorrow.

[Bickerton] So, you are confident that the border will remain open, at least, for you to bring the refugees back?

[Stromberg] Yes, we very much hope so. Obviously, when it was announced on Radio Rwanda this morning that the sanction is going into effect immediately, we began to make contacts and it seems at the very start this morning that the Rwandan authorities very much did not want this operation to be affected, so we are hopeful that tomorrow we will be able to continue. [end recording]

Rwanda: Aid Agency Vehicles Barred From Crossing Border

AB0908175496 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 9 Aug 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Rwandan Government has today announced that it is imposing sanctions on its neighbor, Burundi, from today. It came as something of a surprise. The Arusha meeting of regional heads of state after the coup in Burundi that toppled Hutu President Ntubunganya and brought Tutsi Pierre Buyoya back to power agreed to tough measures to try and return Burundi to legality. Tanzania, then Kenya and Uganda began a blockade closing borders and banning transport but Rwanda waited. There was speculation that there was some ethnic sympathies between the Tutsi-led government in Kigali and the regime in Bujumbura. That was strongly denied. On Wednesday [7 August], Rwanda said they would impose sanctions when they were ready and now they've done it. On the line to Kigali, Richard Lee asked the director of information, Major Lucien Rutayisire, why they had waited until today to impose sanctions.

[Begin recording] [Rutayisire] The principle of sanctions was agreed upon by the regional heads of state but there was no clear date set for the commencement of the sanctions, so each country, it appeared, decided when to start imposing the sanctions, and it happened that Rwanda started today. So, there is nothing really out of the ordinary.

[Lee] But just yesterday, the Rwandan Government was saying that the sanctions would probably be imposed only next week. Was pressure put on your government by other countries in the region?

[Rutayisire] No, no, no, no. We could not have acted on pressure because there wasn't any such pressure.

[Lee] So why then today?

[Rutayisire] And why not? Rwanda starts last week, next week, this week, well, it all depends. There shouldn't really be any suspicion over the date. Rwanda chooses to impose the sanctions. Why all that suspicion you have really portrayed in the media?

[Lee] But why did Rwanda start so much after the other countries in the region?

[Rutayisire] Well, why and why not? Even the other countries in the region did not start on the same date, so you can as well ask why Tanzania imposed sanctions before Kenya.

[Lee] But we have asked them this question already, and now we are asking you why it has taken you so much longer than them, and why today?

[Rutayisire] Yes, I don't think it has taken us longer than the two weeks which was, I think, the time limit agreed upon by the regional heads of state because they gave time to the Government of Burundi to reconsider its position and its stand within two weeks. We have not imposed the sanctions after the two weeks, so where is the problem?

[Lee] And now that you've imposed sanctions, what concrete measures have you taken down on the border with Burundi?

[Rutayisire] The minister of foreign affairs this morning made it clear that there will be no more flights to and from Bujumbura to Kigali. There will be no vehicles crossing the border from Rwanda to Burundi.

[Lee] And no more vehicles crossing the border, does that include aid agency vehicles going to help and assist with the refugees in northern Burundi?

[Rutayisire] Well, for the time being, yes, until.... [pauses] maybe, that is again reviewed. [end recording]

Rwanda: Parliament Passes Legislation on Trial of Genocide Cases

EA1008181796 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French
1115 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The basic law on the trial of offenses related to genocide and other crimes against humanity committed in Rwanda between 1 October 1990 and 31 December 1994 was approved yesterday by deputies in the National Assembly.

The draft law, which has been at the National Assembly since June, was approved with a majority of 47 votes, one vote against and five abstentions. [passage omitted]

Sao Tome & Principe

Sao Tome & Principe: Situation 'Normal'; Soldiers End Party Office Occupation

AB1108165296 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 11 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Things have returned to normal in Sao Tome and Principe following yesterday's occupation of the headquarters of the country's leading political party by a column of about 15 soldiers, who were demanding payment of their salary arrears. The soldiers held two ministers hostage. A compromise was reached between the party leadership and the soldiers at the end of negotiations.

In another development, the Sao Tomean Government has decided to call on magistrates from Portuguese-speaking countries to rule on the dispute concerning the announcement of the results of the 21 July presidential elections.

Zaire

Zaire: Government To Expel Burundians Living Illegally in Country

AB0908210596 Paris AFP in French
1937 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kinshasa, 9 Aug (AFP) — The Government of Zaire today announced its decision to "expel all Burundians residing illegally on its territory." It also recalled that its borders with Burundi have been officially closed since 6 May.

In a communique issued this evening, the government notes that the 12,500 Burundians who entered the country illegally have so far been registered by the UNHCR bureau in Uvira, Sud-Kivu, in eastern Zaire, since the disturbances started in Burundi.

The communique also expresses "serious concern about the current development in the situation in Burundi," and "denounces any unilateral attempt by any country in the subregion to engage in any so-called policing operation in Burundi." The communique further states that Kinshasa "remains convinced that any policing operation in Burundi should be carried out in concert with all neighboring countries in the region in collaboration with the OAU and the United Nations." It must also involve other countries outside the region.

Concerning eventual sanctions recommended by the Arusha conference, the communique recalls that all land, air, and lake transport links with Burundi have been suspended between the two countries since May.

Other countries of the Great Lakes Region — Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda — have announced economic sanctions against the new leadership in Bujumbura following the military coup d'etat which returned Major Pierre Buyoya to power on 25 July.

Zaire: Kengo on Belgian-Zairian Rapprochement

BR0608144196 Brussels LE SOIR in French
6 Aug 96 p 2

[Interview with Zairian Prime Minister Kengo was Dondo by Veronique Kiesel in Brussels; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kiesel] Are you satisfied with what happened today, with this Belgian-Zairian reconciliation?

[Kengo] Very satisfied. Today we took a major step on the road toward normalizing relations between our two countries, and there will be others to come. We are concerned at present with humanitarian aid, health, education, assistance with food development, and concerted action through the nongovernmental organizations. Belgium's decision last December to renew cooperation in this form has been improved upon: The Kinshasa government can intervene to ensure that this assistance happens place under optimum conditions by pointing out the priority geographical areas and those sectors with the most urgent needs. These projects will be regularly assessed by the Belgians and the Zairians. Tomorrow we will return to direct cooperation between countries, as before....

[Kiesel] You say tomorrow. Has a timetable been agreed?

[Kengo] No fixed timetable has been set, but we should see this normalization after the elections. We are therefore quite close to it. This normalization with Belgium is not, however, essentially dependent on the assistance which Belgium will grant us. Belgium itself is facing internal problems. But this normalization with Belgium is important for us because it involves the major role which Brussels plays with our bilateral and multilateral partners.

[Kiesel] Perhaps the reason Brussels has decided to take this step is because France has already renewed cooperation with Zaire, filling the vacuum left by Belgium....

[Kengo] You said it: Nature abhors a vacuum. If you leave a vacuum somewhere nature will fill it. It does not serve any purpose to leave a vacuum. But recently, since my government has been in power, a number of projects with Belgium have reached maturity. They come from the private sector.

These contracts include Sizarail, which is very interesting, the project between Gecamines and Union Miniere, and the one between Onatra and CMB, Transurb and other groups. These are all major undertakings.

[Kiesel] After the private sector, we are therefore seeing the Belgian public sector renewing cooperation with Zaire....

[Kengo] For a time we watched one another. Now we are both looking in the same direction, for the greatest good of our two countries. For Zaire it is a matter of development and for Belgium a matter of its sphere of influence. Former colonial powers such as France and Great Britain have never totally severed links with their former colonies which give them their special status at international conferences, in their relations with

the rest of the world. Your importance does not stem solely from your role in Europe but also from your former colonies. As Leopold Sedar Senghor said, our partnership is essentially the coming together of donor and receiver. Each gives and each receives.

[Kiesel] Exactly, in addition to humanitarian aid Belgium has also undertaken to provide important assistance in organizing the forthcoming elections in Zaire. Are you satisfied with the way arrangements are proceeding?

[Kengo] It is going well. We have already taken some of the measures the politicians have called for, as preconditions for open elections which respect the rules of democracy, such as organizing national conferences for the civil service, education, justice and the armed forces. Before I left for Belgium I submitted a number of important texts, including bills on the referendum, the constitution and the electoral law, and the decree organizing the census. Parliament was convened for a special session in order to look at these matters, and to draw up the necessary legal framework for the elections. We are going to proceed in two stages. First of all the referendum on the constitution, to be followed by the legislative and presidential elections at a single ballot. Zaire will then have the central institutions of the Third Republic with a president and two chambers. A majority will emerge, possibly a coalition. The president will appoint a prime minister who will form his government. This government will then be able to organize elections to lower offices in due time. We want to avoid calling the citizens to vote too often as this is not without difficulty in a country as big as Zaire with such a scattered population and such difficult means of communication.

[Kiesel] Exactly, given these conditions will you be able to organize a reliable population census?

[Kengo] If they managed to do it in Mozambique and Angola, we will succeed in Zaire. We will have infrastructures and an administration. Admittedly the presence of refugees in Zaire will complicate matters, but we can depend on the various denominations in Zaire in order to reach everyone. Half of Zaire's population is Catholic, the other half Protestant, Kimbanguist, and Muslim. If the administration works with the denominational organizations our census will reach the vast majority of people. We can also visit the most isolated villages by helicopter, as they did in Gabon....

[Kiesel] Has Belgium undertaken to provide any particular type of assistance for these elections?

[Kengo] Zaire is to make a request. The international community has agreed for all aid for the Zairian

elections to be centralized by the United Nations and the European Union. The United States, France, and Belgium have agreed to play a major role. All those with good intentions must therefore be brought together in order to see how things are to be organized in practice, to see who will contribute how much. We are going to have to embark on a marketing and charm campaign....

[Kiesel] Although things are beginning to come together in terms of form, when it comes to content the Zairian opposition seems to be caught up in disputes and divisions and is a long way from presenting a united front for these elections....

[Kengo] That is the weakness of the opposition which is racked by divisions rather than seeing what unites it. If it adopted our motto of "Strength in union" it would do a lot better. But there is one optimistic note: The Kibassa movement and our own are moving toward reunification. Of course there could be a single opposition candidate, but it is perhaps too soon for that.

I believe if we are really to have this democracy we are all calling for we must have enough candidates for the people to be able to choose. There are more than 400 registered parties and these are progressively evolving in the direction of two major groups. Each of these could present several candidates. We must allow ambitions to be expressed, and then allow the political groups to choose the best program, the best strategies, and the best candidates.

[Kiesel] You were much firmer than Belgium on the subject of the situation in Burundi. Did you discuss this point in your talks with your Belgian colleagues?

[Kengo] There was a succession of coups d'etat in Africa during the 1960's and 1970's. The 1990's are the age of democracy. Is it conceivable that a country such as Zaire, which has been struggling to introduce democracy at price for the past seven years, is going to allow all this to be swept aside by the armed forces, by a return to an Africa of coups d'etat? In Arusha we condemned the Burundian regime in the strongest possible terms. We cannot tolerate this kind of precedent. It is like when there is a fire at the neighbor's house. Who is to say that once the straw has caught fire the wind is not going to carry it to your own home?

Belgium's position is its own affair; I do not want to meddle in its domestic policy. But we irrevocably condemned this coup and we are going to help the parties in question to arrive at a dialogue on the subject of the sole institution with any validity: The National Assembly, the only survivor of the June 1993 elections, as president Ndadaye was assassinated and his government overturned. There must be a return to

constitutional order. The new Burundian Government has also disbanded the political parties and we call upon it to reinstate these parties so that they can freely engage in their activities throughout the country without hindrance. All political parties, without exception, must be able to take part in the reconciliation discussions to arrive at a government of national unity which is genuinely representative and drawn from this National Assembly....

[In a similar interview in the 6 August edition of Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French on page 2, Gerald Papy asks the following additional questions:

[Papy] The Zairian foreign and defense ministers recently travelled to Kigali. Are you optimistic about a solution to the Rwandan refugee problem?

[Kengo] I will be going to Kigali myself where I will meet with my Rwandan counterpart in order to sanction the work undertaken by my ministers in Rwanda. The process is satisfactory. We are going to reactivate the subcommittees set up in September 1994, on the repatriation of refugees, on border security, and on the return of the property of Rwandan refugees in Zaire. They will be resuming their activities before the end of the week. We also aim to reactivate the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, a structure through which all problems could be approached.

[Papy] Do you detect any real desire to settle this problem on the part of the Rwandan partner?

[Kengo] I always presume others are well intentioned.

[Papy] The presence of Rwandan refugees has aggravated certain latent problems in eastern Zaire. How do you believe the situation can be normalized?

[Kengo] These problems will disappear with the return of the refugees. It is also not good for Rwanda to have such a percentage of its population outside its borders. Their presence outside the country is also a source of insecurity and institutional instability.

[Papy] In Brussels the RDR [Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda] made public a refugee repatriation program. Do you recognize this movement as a partner?

[Kengo] We entered into cooperation with the RDR. But we subsequently realized that the RDR is also an obstacle to the return of refugees. The proof is that Tanzania was the first to expel RDR members from its refugee camps. We adopted the same attitude. At a certain point the RDR was made up of intimidators who were preventing the return of refugees. We must therefore remove these intimidators, the perpetrators of

the genocide.... And unfortunately these intimidators include certain charity organizations.

[Papy] Are these of foreign or Rwandan origin?

[Kengo] I will not specify. But we did note that, when we drew up the refugee repatriation plan by closing down the camps, certain charity organizations were also an obstacle to the return of the Rwandans.]

Ethiopia

Ethiopia: Troops Attack Somalia, Occupy Border Towns

AB0908134296 Paris AFP in English
1340 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, Aug 9 (AFP) — Ethiopian forces supported by tanks, armoured vehicles and fighter planes have attacked and occupied the Somali border towns of Dolow, Luq, Bulohawo and Bohol Garas, reports reaching here said Friday [9 August].

The reports indicated that the invasion was the result of fighting that has been going on for a long time in the border area between Ethiopian forces and Moslem fundamentalist guerrillas of the al-Itihad al-Islam group.

The group is suspected to have bombed the Wabi Shebele Hotel in the Ethiopian capital Monday, killing one and wounding at least 10 others.

Ethiopia: Army Acts Against Fundamentalist Group

EA1208103596 Addis Ababa Radio Ethiopia
International Service in English
1630 GMT 11 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The following is a full text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia wishes to disclose that a contingent of the Ethiopia Defense Forces (EDF) has taken military action in hot pursuit against the multinational fundamentalist extremist group which has for sometime been engaged in terrorist activities along the Ethiopia-Somalia border and in other areas within Ethiopia.

This dangerous multinational group, whose presence in the area has been known for sometime and whose major goal is to spread terror and lead the subregion into chaos, has over the past few weeks and months been expanding its evil designs with impunity. The prevailing situation in Somalia has been used by the terrorist group, composed of nationals of various countries from our region and from without, as a convenient opportunity as well as cover to destabilize the whole region. The group appears so far to have assumed that the absence of an appropriate response from the countries of the subregion was a result of lack of will and resolve and as a consequence it has in recent weeks expanded its criminal activities, which included violations of international borders in carrying out attacks and terrorist assaults across borders.

The limited military counteroffensive launched by a contingent of the EDF in hot pursuit against the terrorist

group on the night of 8 August and well into the following day was essentially aimed at destroying the bases and sanctuaries of the multinational terrorist group. In this regard, the limited mission of the counteroffensive was fully successful. The operation was concluded after the objectives for it were achieved.

The EDF will continue to remain vigilant and will, if and when necessary, take similar action in the future to ensure that the terrorist provocations are brought to an end, and until the threat posed by [the] multinational terrorist group are fully removed from the area. The subregion, of which Ethiopia is a part, cannot be used as the headquarters of the multinational terrorist group simply because, unfortunately, some areas of our region have lacked central authority.

The leaders of the multinational terrorist group and those behind them should not assume that Ethiopia's known commitment to the scrupulous respect of international borders would deter it from taking appropriate action against those who strive to spread terror within the subregion and within Ethiopia. More details on the operation and its result as well as on the nature of the terrorist provocations which made the hot pursuit necessary will if deemed necessary be available by the relevant Ethiopian authorities in due course.

Ethiopia: Government Cancels Flights to Burundi

EA1008181496 Addis Ababa Radio Ethiopia Network
in Amharic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ethiopia has canceled all its flights to Burundi, in line with the sanctions imposed by leaders of eastern and central African countries, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has said.

The spokesman said today that Ethiopian Airlines has canceled all its flights to Burundi beginning last Tuesday [6 August]. He went on to say that Ethiopia, together with other countries, will continue with peace efforts to make sure that the Rwandan genocide is not repeated in Burundi. He also said that Ethiopia is ready to give its full support to the efforts under way to bring peace and stability to Burundi.

So far, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania have imposed sanctions against the Burundian government, in accordance with the decision reached by the leaders of eastern and central African countries.

Kenya

Kenya: Government Tightens Security on Somali, Ethiopian Borders

EA1108175696 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1300 GMT 11 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Northeastern Provincial Commissioner (PC) Mr. Maurice Makhanu has assured the residents of Mandera who live on the border of Somalia and Ethiopia that the government has tightened the security to protect them and their property following recent fighting between the Ethiopian forces and a faction in Somalia.

Talking to KNA in Garissa town today, the PC said the provincial security committee was in Mandera yesterday to assess the situation following the fighting near the border town of Bula-Hawa in Somalia, a few meters from Mandera town. He confirmed that one security personnel was killed and two others injured when a stray bomb hurled from Bula Hawa fell near Kenyan customs premises. He said the customs offices were also damaged by the bullets.

He said security personnel have been deployed along the border to counter any threat from across and a check was mounted on refugees who might bring firearms into the country. He, however, said no single refugee had crossed to Kenya.

Ethiopian forces are said to have captured the towns of Dolo, Luq and Bula Hawa in Somalia. The situation is said to be calm and people are going about their normal businesses.

Kenya: Border Town Hit by Stray Bombs From Somali Clashes

EA1008181096 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
10 Aug 96 p 1

[Article by Kurgat Marindany, Ken Opala and Reuters: "Stray Bombs Hit Mandera Town"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kenya's border town of Mandera was gripped by fear after it was struck by bombs during heavy fighting between Somali factions, one assisted by Ethiopian helicopter gunships. A fundamentalist faction later claimed that more than 100 people had been killed and thousands of families forced to flee the area. It accused Ethiopia of invading the country.

The Northeastern provincial administration imposed a curfew after three bombs fell in the frontier town. No one was injured, but Kenya Army personnel went on full alert. The acting district commissioner, Mr. Maurice

Otunga, said the army had moved to the border [and] was monitoring the situation and would block any infiltration into Kenya.

The fighting erupted between the Somali National Front, formerly of the late Somali dictator Muhammad Siad Barre and the Al-ItHad [as published] fundamentalists. Ethiopian warplanes, supporting the SNF, carried out numerous raids against the fundamentalists. Relief workers said in Nairobi that Ethiopian warplanes supporting the SNF - one of the factions battling for control of the Gedo region, bombed Luq, a small Somali town, but no casualty figures were given. Three Kenyan medical personnel and a Ugandan with the African Medical Research Foundation [AMREF] were evacuated by two planes owned by a European Community humanitarian organization. The evacuees said the air raid was preceded by running battles between SNF and Al-ItHad Islamic fundamentalist army militia.

SNF had sought assistance from Ethiopia to rout out rivals, claimed the workers. "When we reached the airstrip, Ethiopian warplanes started flying over", said Dr. Willis Ouma, an AMREF employee. "We had to hide in the bush. We feared we would be targets". [passage omitted]

Reports told of heavy shelling of Somali border towns, especially Bula Hawa, located a kilometre from Mandera town. Mr. Otunga said one of the bombs fell a few metres from the Mandera police station, another near the Abdi Qafar petrol station and the third near Haji Muhammad's shop in the town center. Mr. Otunga told residents to keep away from the streets.

The Northeastern provincial commissioner, Mr. Maurice Makhanu, told 'THE NATION' that heavily armed Ethiopian army personnel were invited by the SNF to fight Al-ItHad, the current rulers of the Gedo region. By 0800 [0500 GMT] the combined force of Ethiopian and SNF soldiers had overrun Bula Hawa. Mr. Makhanu said Kenyan intelligence reports indicated that at 1400, the fundamentalists had been overrun and Dolo town, which is 40 km northeast of Bula Hawa, had been taken. It was not immediately known how many casualties each side suffered during the shelling, which had lasted more than 12 hours, although unconfirmed reports indicate that the Al-ItHad militia suffered heavy casualties.

At 1500, the SNF had approached the town of Luq and there was little resistance. The Ethiopians fired from Malkasuftu town, which overlooks Mandera, while the fundamentalist group launched their attack from Bula Hawa, before both sides locked horns at 0730. Mr. Otunga said the town was in the middle of Bula Hawa and Malkasuftu town was on the Ethiopian side [as published], and that missiles were flying over Mandera.

"We have temporarily told the people to stay at home and far away from the border... because you cannot overrule the possibility of stray bullets coming to our side," Mr. Otunga said.

Contacted later in the afternoon, the Provincial Commissioner said it was not immediately known what the two sides were fighting over. "There is very little information coming from that side of the war and I cannot tell you why they are fighting and for what reasons they want to take over the towns... all I know is that residents of those towns have been depending very much on our side for all their rations."

Residents of Mandera said the thunder of gunfire and shelling frightened the entire town as no one could immediately tell where the guns were aimed at. One resident said that at first he thought "it was the normal police and bandits exchanging fire, but when the bombing intensified I thought Kenya was at war with Somalia". [passage omitted]

Kenya: Soldiers Wounded in Somali-Ethiopian Crossfire

EA1008201396 Nairobi EAST AFRICAN STANDARD in English 10 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Kenyan Soldiers Feared Dead in Somali Border Crossfire"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two Kenya army officers are feared dead after they were caught in a crossfire by Ethiopian regular army who invaded war-torn Somalia.

The dawn raid ended in the taking of three towns of Dalow, Bella-hawo and Luq [as published] in Gedo region of southwest Somalia.

According to Kenyan military sources, a number of Somali civilians were reported dead while several others injured by heavily armed Ethiopian forces known as Tigrays.

Mandera town and the surrounding villages were engulfed in tension and the air filled with sounds of bomb explosions as business came to a standstill.

Reliable sources further disclosed that the Kenya army was on the alert closely monitoring the raid. Thousands of Somalis fled to the Kenyan side of the border to take refuge as the three hour gunfire and bombardment continued.

A contingent of military personnel flew from Nairobi to the site and the injured soldiers are understood to have been airlifted to the forces memorial hospital, Nairobi. Mandera District commissioner Cosmas Mutai had left for the border where a large influx of people were reportedly crossing from Somalia.

Business at the town was also halted temporarily as the local traders closed for fear of attack.

According to impeccable sources in Mandera, a bomb exploded injuring an army officer manning the border post.

The explosion came after more than three hours of gunfire between the Tigrays and a group of Somalia militiamen who were defending the towns.

The number of innocent civilians either killed or wounded during the raid could not be immediately established.

Somalia

Somalia: Islamic Group Claims Ethiopian Forces Repelled

AB0908165696 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 9 Aug 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports from Somalia claim that Ethiopian forces have crossed the border and attacked a string of towns in the region where the frontiers of Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya meet, 300 miles northwest of Mogadishu. It seems to be a development in the long-running conflict in Ethiopia's Region Five between the Ethiopian Government and rebels of the al-Itihad al-Islam fundamentalist group which has bases in Somalia. From Mogadishu, Ali Musa Abdi faxed this report:

Reports from the southern region of Guedow said Ethiopian forces attacked the border towns of Dolow, Luq, and Bulohawo last night. According to the report, about two battalions of Ethiopian troops supported by tanks, armored vehicles, and fighter planes attacked the three towns and took control of them.

A statement released by al-Itihad al-Islam in south Mogadishu, said that they had repulsed the Ethiopian forces, and had inflicted heavy losses on them. They claimed to have killed over 100 Ethiopian troops but also admitted to having lost 15 of their own troops. Al-Itihad al-Islam also said that Ethiopian soldiers have been killing civilians in the border towns as well as destroying buildings and water wells. According to al-Itihad, former Somali soldiers from the Marehan Clan of Siad Barre now belonging to the Somali National Front are fighting alongside the Ethiopian troops.

Al-Itihad had been ruling these towns since the downfall of Siad Barre's regime. They introduced Shari'ah law, and banned the use of narcotic drugs, alcoholic drinks, and smoking.

Somalia: Ethiopian Troops Cross Somali Border Again, Attack Towns

*AB1008135996 Paris AFP in English
1128 GMT 10 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, Aug 10 (AFP) — Ethiopian troops crossed the Somali border again Saturday [10 August], attacking bases manned by Ethiopian Somalis in the central Galgudud region, according to reports coming into Mogadishu over field radios operated by clan militias.

They said Ethiopian aircraft and ground troops attacked bases in the Goldogob region near the town of Galkayo. The fighting was continuing, they said.

Two battalions of Ethiopian soldiers, backed by helicopter gunships, tanks and armoured cars crossed the border farther south Saturday and occupied the Somali towns of Dolow, Luq, Bulohawo and Bohol Garas, travelers from the region told AFP.

Those towns serve as bases for Ethiopian ethnic Somalis in the Islamic fundamentalist group Al-Itihad Al-Islam who are fighting a hit-and-run guerrilla war for the independence of Ethiopia's Ogaden region, bordering both Somalia and Kenya.

The groups administer the towns, where they have introduced sharia law, even banning smoking. Members of a Somali faction grouping members of the Marehan clan of former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre were also reported to be involved in that fighting in a bid to capture those towns for themselves and strengthen their position in the clan wars which have continued in Somalia since Siad Barre was ousted in 1991.

Al-Itihad was suspected of having planted a bomb which exploded in the Wabi Shebele hotel in Addis Ababa on Monday, killing one person and wounding at least 10 others. It earlier claimed responsibility for an attempt to assassinate Ethiopia's transport minister last month, and bomb blasts in other hotels.

The reports reaching the Kenyan capital said stray shells struck the Kenyan town of Mandera, at the apex of a triangle where the three countries meet. One unconfirmed report said two Kenyan army officers were killed and that a Kenyan officer guarding the border post was wounded when a shell exploded there. The town came to a standstill Friday as residents took cover.

Kenyan troops in the area were put on full alert and moved to the border as Somalis streamed across it to escape the fighting. Authorities imposed a curfew.

No accurate casualty toll could be established Saturday, but Al-Itihad claimed in Mogadishu Friday that their guerrillas had killed more than 100 Ethiopian soldiers

and wounded many more, with 15 of their own men killed.

Military analysts discounted that claim, saying that casualties among the lightly armed guerrillas would have been far higher than those among the Ethiopian troops, with their armour and heavy firepower.

Somalia: Militias Battle for Air Base as Somali Truce Collapses

*AB1008140796 Paris AFP in English
1355 GMT 10 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, Feb 10 (AFP) [dateline as received] — A truce declared by Somali warlord Ali Mahdi Mohamed following the death of rival strongman Mohamed Farah Aidid collapsed Saturday [10 August] as the two sides' militias fought for a strategic air base west of the capital.

Fighting was also going on in villages between the Ballidogle base and the town of Afgoye, 30 kilometres (18 miles) south of the capital, according to reports relayed to Mogadishu by militia field radios.

Somalia: Ali Mahdi Asks Ethiopia To Withdraw Its Forces From Somalia

*EA1008163196 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali
Republic in Somali 1100 GMT 10 Aug 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of Somalia and chairman of the Somali Salvation Alliance [SSA], Ali Mahdi Mohamed, has issued an official statement concerning [words indistinct] attacks by Ethiopian forces on Somalia [words indistinct] three towns in Gedo region of Somalia.

The president said the forces' provocative attack has resulted in death and injuries to the people in the area, and the towns are still occupied. The president of Somalia and chairman of the SSA has called on the Ethiopian government to withdraw its forces from Somalia unconditionally [words indistinct].

President Mahdi has also called on the OAU, the Arab League and the UN Security Council to take immediate action against the attack, which violates international law. In conclusion, the president has sent condolences to the Somali people in general and in particular to the families and relatives of those who died in the attack.

Somalia: Ethiopian Rebels Claim Somali Border Town

*AB1008165496 Paris AFP in English
1549 GMT 10 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, Aug 10 (AFP) — The Ethiopian Al-Itihad Al-Islam guerrilla group

claimed Saturday [10 August] to have recaptured the Somali border town of Luq from Ethiopian troops, killing 150 Ethiopian soldiers for the loss of 17 guerrillas.

A statement issued by the guerrillas in Mogadishu, which could not be independently confirmed, said the bodies of Ethiopian troops were lying in the streets of Luq, one of a string of Somali border towns which Al-Itihad had been using as bases for attacks in Ethiopia.

The fundamentalist group is fighting for the independence of Ethiopia's Ogaden region, inhabited largely by ethnic Somalis.

The guerrillas claimed to have destroyed one helicopter gunship, one M62 tanks, and six armoured cars, and said they had regained control of the area following a massive Ethiopian attack on Friday.

The statement made no mention of an Ethiopian attack Saturday — reported by clan militias using field radios — on bases in Somalia's Galgudud region north of Luq.

Somalia: Radio Says Attacks by Aidid Forces Repulsed

EA1008200396 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the high command of the peace-supporting coalition forces has said that militia loyal to the self-proclaimed group today at 0300 GMT attacked the coalition forces' position at northern Afgooye. The statement said that after a fierce battle the coalition forces captured several technicals and equipment.

The statement said the self-proclaimed group's militia launched another attack, but the coalition forces inflicted death and injuries on it, and took many members of the militia prisoner. The surviving attackers fled to an area beyond the Afgooye bridge.

Somalia: Aidid Spokesman Calls For Ethiopian Withdrawal

EA1008201096 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Masses of the Somali Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the government of the Somali Republic this afternoon said his government deeply regretted the invasion of Somalia, in particular Gedo region, by neighboring Ethiopia. The spokesman said the government would never accept an invasion of the country. The spokesman said the Somali Government cannot understand why Ethiopia invaded the country.

The spokesman called on the Ethiopian Government to immediately withdraw its troops from Somali soil. In conclusion, the spokesman said the Somali Government would like to establish contacts with Ethiopia to discuss ways of establishing good neighborliness between the two countries and their peoples.

Somalia: Heavy Factional Fighting Resumes in Somalia After Lull

AB1108163696 Paris AFP in English 1549 GMT 11 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, Aug 11 (AFP) — Heavy factional fighting has resumed in Somalia [after] more than a week of calm that followed the death and burial of Somali warlord General Mohamed Farah Aidid on August 1.

According to reports reaching here on Sunday [11 August], heavy fighting took place in the southwestern district Balad on Saturday between forces of Hussein Mohamed Aidid, who now heads the United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) faction, and those of self-styled Somali interim president Ali Mahdi Mohamed's Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA).

An estimation of the casualties from the fighting was not yet available, but eyewitnesses said that an large number of people had either been killed or wounded and hundreds of families displaced by the fighting.

Earlier reports said that fighting was also raging on the strategic road linking Mogadishu to Ballidogle airport, 90 kilometres (55 miles) to the southwest in which 12 people were said to have been killed and a dozen others wounded.

Somalia: Radio Says Calm Returns to Afgooye Road Area

EA1108180896 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Masses of the Somali Republic in Somali 1400 GMT 11 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released today by the Office of the Deputy Minister of Disarmament and Rehabilitation of the Republic of Somalia said bandits who attempted to undermine the security of the road connecting Afgooye and Wanle Weyne were bravely countered and cleansed by the national security forces. The statement adds that the national security forces, while pursuing the remnants of the bandits, reached Balcad town in Shabeellaha Dhexe region where they were warmly welcomed by the people of the area who were for some time harassed by the bandits. The report continued that the people who came out were addressed by the heads, officers and leaders of

the forces. They asked the people to participate in safeguarding security and help toward eliminating the bandits who are endangering the life and property of the people.

The statement also said the security of the road connecting Afgooye and Wanle Weyne and the surrounding districts was normal.

Somalia: Thousands of Muslims Demonstrate in Mogadishu

*AB1108143696 Paris AFP in English
1415 GMT 11 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, Aug 11 (AFP) — Thousands of Moslems poured into the streets of north Mogadishu on Sunday [11 August] to demonstrate in support of continuation of Islamic courts that were established in the northern half of the capital two years ago.

During the demonstrations, the largest ever seen in this part of the city, jubilant Moslem supporters of Sharia law and its courts carried the chairman of the Islamic courts Sheikh Ali Sheikh Mohamud shoulder-high along the streets up to Benadir Stadium where he later addressed them.

On arrival at the stadium, the demonstrators presented Sheikh Ali with a copy of the Holy Koran and implored

him to continue his efforts to strengthen the implementation of Sharia laws in the part of the city, controlled by warlord and self-styled Somali interim president Ali Mahdi Mohamed's Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA).

The southern part of the city is controlled [by] the United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) faction now controlled by Hussein Mohamed Aidid, son of General Mohamed Farah Aidid, who died here on August 1 from gunshot wounds he received on July 25 in fighting in the south Mogadishu's Medina district.

Addressing the demonstrators, Sheikh Mohamud said that 5,533 cases had reached the supreme Islamic courts of north Mogadishu, of which 4,980 cases were end with penalties ranging from whipping, chopping off hands and legs and stoning to death. [sentence as received]

"However, more than 20,000 cases were received by the Islamic courts in general, showing the victory we have achieved," Sheikh Mohamud added. Sunday demonstrations had been opposed by the north Mogadishu strongman, with Radio North Mogadishu supporting him reporting earlier on Sunday that the demonstrations had been postponed indefinitely, but the jubilant demonstrators still took to the streets and went ahead to demonstrate their support for Sharia law and the Islamic courts.

South Africa: Security Official Reports 'No Sign' of Hijacked Foreigners

*MB0908124496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1028 GMT 9 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG Aug 9 SAPA—Public Safety and Security MEC [Member of the Executive Council] Jessie Duarte on Friday [9 August] called on the public to assist police in their search for three missing foreign men whose minibus transport had been hijacked near Sandton on Thursday night.

The vehicle was found parked in 18th Avenue around 11:15 AM on [0915 GMT] Friday in Alexandra township and was not damaged, a police spokesman said.

Police launched a major ground and air search, including murder and robbery units as far afield as Pietersburg and Vereeniging and a police helicopter.

So far, no sign of the missing men had been found, Assist. Comm. Don Asperling said.

Duarte called on all hotels who have clients that had not reported back as normal and were suspected to be missing to phone police on (011) 407 0191.

South Africa: Police Say Alleged Abduction of 3 Foreigners Hoax

*MB1008132496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1311 GMT 10 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg Aug 10 SAPA — The alleged hijacking of three foreign visitors on Thursday [8 August] and their subsequent abduction did not occur, police said on Saturday.

Charges of defeating the ends of justice were being investigated against the driver of the minibus which supposedly was transporting the three white men, police spokesman Capt Jan Combrinck said at a media conference. Three men have been arrested for the hijacking, which did occur. There were passengers in the minibus, but they were not the foreigners as claimed by the driver. None were abducted. Police have confiscated two firearms, Combrinck said.

South Africa: PAGAD Declares 'Holy War'; Refuses To Negotiate

MB1208075596 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Cape Town organization, PAGAD [People Against Gangsterism and Drugs], had declared a jihad, or holy war, and says it will not negotiate with anyone. PAGAD Leader Mohammed Ali Parker was speaking after clashes between police

and PAGAD members during a march by the group through Hanover Park on the Cape Flats yesterday. Police blamed PAGAD for the violence, while PAGAD condemned the role of the police in the shooting. The group said it had only wanted to hand over a memorandum. Parker said PAGAD had contacts with the Palestinian groups Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Hizballah, and could call them for back-up at any time.

Nine people were injured in the clashes, and it is believed that three people were shot. Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas, and soldiers with rifles and gas masks moved in to support them. Police arrested at least three members of PAGAD during the march. Two people have been charged with attempted murder, and one with contravening the arms and ammunition act. Four hand guns and a shotgun were also seized.

Earlier gang leader Rashied Staggie led a rival march to the Valhalla Park Police Station followed by hundreds of gangsters. The marchers included columns of guards with shotguns. Staggie and his murdered twin, Rashaad, led the Hard Livings Gang. Gang Spokesperson (Ivan Wolder) demanded that President Nelson Mandela and Justice Minister Dullah Omar come to meet them next Wednesday [21 August]. National Police Chief George Fivaz pledged last week to fight gangsterism.

In Gauteng, police prevented a volatile situation by stopping anti-drug protesters from heading for suspected drug dealers' homes in Lenasia, south-west of Johannesburg. More than a thousand mainly Muslim marches tried to enter the area. Muslim organizations collected funds to send local leaders to join their counterparts in Cape Town. Hundreds of people marched through the streets of Lenasia in solidarity with PAGAD.

South Africa: Weekend PAGAD Rally Against Gangsterism Ends in Violence

*MB1208075796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2026 GMT 11 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town Aug 11 SAPA — Police used rubber bullets and teargas on Sunday [11 August] to control sections of a 10,000 crowd which took to the streets after a People Against Gangsterism and Drugs [PAGAD] rally in Athlone, Cape Town.

A march followed a mass rally at the Vygieskraal stadium where the crowd chanted "one (drug) merchant, one bullet, one druglord, one bullet" and demanded action be taken against the city's druglords. A number of people were injured in the confusion following the police action.

Police blamed PAGAD for the violence while PAGAD expressed their dismay with the way police handled the march. Gang members near the Mount View Mosque, in Hanover Park, were also accused of starting the shooting.

Police said a group of heavily armed marchers — allegedly members of PAGAD's "G-Force" protection unit — broke away and fired shots at them. Police retaliated using rubber bullets, teargas and birdshot.

A fleeing woman broke her leg, a freelance journalist, Nelson Isaacs, 47, was shot in the legs, and several marchers received medical attention for inhaling teargas fumes.

Police spokesman Sen Supt John Sterrenberg said some PAGAD marchers had openly displayed rifles and shotguns contravening an agreement with police. Police stopped marchers when it became obvious they were on their way to alleged drug dealers' houses.

They had ignored police instructions and shooting had occurred at the mosque.

Sterrenberg said two people were arrested on charges of attempted murder and three for contravening the Arms and Ammunition Act. Five weapons — four handguns and a shotgun — were also seized, he said.

Muslim religious leaders refuted police claims and said they were exercising their democratic right to hold a prayer service at the mosque. The large number of worshipers had spilled into the streets and parking lot. Tension between police and marchers led to the shooting, they said. It was also claimed that gangsters at an open field near the mosque were responsible for the shooting.

PAGAD chief negotiator Farook Jaffer said he was deeply disappointed with the police action.

"They saw the marching group was a mix of elderly people, women and children, yet they didn't hesitate to open fire on us. We will not leave this matter here, we will take it further. It appears this government is not fit to govern and this police force does not serve the people," Jaffer said.

Earlier at the stadium a PAGAD leader, identified only as Amir, said they had been given permission to fight druglords and merchants and to rid the Western Cape streets of "this scourge". Amir said drug merchants and gangsters had declared war on the community and they were entitled to defend themselves and fight back. He also warned the media to report fairly on PAGAD. PAGAD followers must "become totally fearless", he said.

"Fighting is prescribed on you and you may not like it and we are not a violent people, but we will use force if necessary," he said. Amir said PAGAD was only non-violent to non-violent people but would defend itself against all violence without fear.

"True followers of Allah can't wait to die as then they will meet Allah himself," Amir said. Jaffer warned the government that if it "did not shake up we will take control".

"We have put you there and you have not been performing," he said. Jaffer added that PAGAD had no problem with Justice Minister Dullah Omar as a person, but with the way he operated his portfolio. PAGAD doubted whether he acted in the interests of all the people, or just of a specific group.

Shaikh Nazeem Mohammed of the Muslim Judicial Council said the soul of the community, and especially the youth, was being taken away by drugs. Imam Achmad Cassiem, of the Islamic Unity Movement, said PAGAD loved justice more than it loved peace, adding that peace should emanate from justice.

South Africa: Confidential Report Said To Reveal Islamic 'Threat'

*MB0908132296 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans
8 Aug 96 p 1*

[Report by Nick Bezuidenhout]

[FBIS Translated Text] A confidential report by the police Crime Information Service notes serious concern about the danger posed by Islamic extremists to South Africa's internal security.

The contents of the report also supports repeated rumors that militant Islamic extremists could be involved in the conflict between organized Muslim groups and drug gangs on the Cape Peninsula.

The report, now in BEELD's possession, bears the heading: "Threat Analysis: Islamic Extremists in the Republic of South Africa" and notes "the threat by Islamic extremists/fundamentalists is now on South Africa's doorstep." It was probably compiled shortly before April, and, according to BEELD's information, a follow-up report has already been drafted.

BEELD reported yesterday that South Africa's Intelligence Service has discovered militant Islamic cells after Israel's prompting. The government is said to be very concerned by the presence of the militants.

Strong militancy is displayed by the Cape Muslim group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD), who

murdered Cape gang leader Rashaad Staggie this past weekend.

The report gives details of 11 "Muslim extremist/fundamentalist" organizations in South Africa. According to the report, some of the members of these organizations received military training in countries like Afghanistan, Libya, and Iran, and they have now been mobilized in secret cells in South Africa. Some of them are well armed.

The investigation uncovered cells in, among other places, Cape Town, Goudini, the Western Cape, Johannesburg, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Stanger, Verulam, Port Elizabeth, and Vereeniging.

In some instances details are given, like the names of cell leaders, where in South Africa paramilitary training was given to cell members, where they obtained weapons, and what contact they have with foreign groups.

According to the report, the Qibla organization is the most extremist organization in the Western Cape. In the past, Qibla sent members for training in Libya and Pakistan, and Qibla members fought alongside Hizballah in the Lebanese conflict (with Israel).

Qibla consists of cells with no more than six members each, functioning autonomously.

The emir (leader) appoints a small executive committee. The emir's name is mentioned in the report. He is a Cape Imam (Muslim priest).

A second prominent Western Cape group is the South African Hizballah, a breakaway faction of Qibla. The group also works under the emir-system, in terms of which individual members are given orders on an ad-hoc basis.

A man identified only as "the emir," warned journalists during the PAGAD march on the Cape Peninsula not to label them vigilantes.

Police spokesmen yesterday referred BEELD's inquiries on militant Muslims, to the National Intelligence Coordinating Committee (Nicoc). BEELD faxed the report to Nicoc spokesman Mo Shaik. Mr. Shaik said that the report was compiled by the police and that national Police Commissioner George Fivaz would issue a statement on the document. BEELD had not received the statement as of press time.

BEELD also inquired about the report from the Crime Information Service. Assistant Commander Leonard Radu, head of the division, requested through a senior officer that BEELD not publish anything about the report as the issue is "very sensitive."

South Africa: Muslim Group Confirms Unidentified International Support

MB1008172696 Johannesburg S Afrm Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Muslim group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs [PAGAD] has confirmed reports that it is receiving financial support from international countries. The group today opened a bank account and asked people to donate money to its cause. PAGAD will be holding a mass rally tomorrow afternoon. The group also reiterated that if gangsters were not willing to hand themselves over to the proper authorities, the community would have to take care of them.

South Africa: Experts Deny Muslim Links With Overseas Islamic Groups

MB1108165296 Johannesburg RAPPORT in Afrikaans 11 Aug 96 p 7

[Report by Z.B. du Toit: "Muslims Deny Links With al-Qadhdhafi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Small groups of Muslims do receive paramilitary training in the Western Cape, but there is no question of links with militant Islamic organizations overseas.

This was said by experts of the South African Muslim community, who were angry about allegations that Muslim terrorist cells in the country have overseas contacts.

The unexplained war waged against Cape drug lords by the Muslim organization calling itself People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD), was reportedly politically inspired. A confidential police report was leaked in which concern was expressed about the activities of Islamic extremists in South Africa.

The report follows an earlier Israeli Government warning to South Africa that militant Muslims are being trained in the country. Israel has been involved in an ongoing struggle against two organizations in particular, Hamas and Hizballah.

University of the Western Cape's, Dr. Farid Esack, says he cannot understand why Islamic experts were not consulted before the allegations were reported internationally.

Esack, author of several books on Muslims, says it is true that small groups of Muslims are receiving paramilitary training, "many patterned along the lines of the AWB [Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging; Afrikaner Resistance Movement]. They learn, among other things, how to use weapons, but there is no political motive.

The training enables Muslims to protect their homes and families.

There is no element of truth in allegations that local Muslims are linked to organizations like Hizballah, Hamas, or the Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, according to Dr. Esack. How can anyone believe that al-Qadhafi, or the Iranian Government, would offend their only friend in the world, South Africa, by covertly training guerrillas?

Esack points out that the South African Muslim community is not united by a single political goal. Like Christians, their loyalties are spread across the political spectrum. If one looks at the Western Cape election results, a significant number voted for the National Party.

Dr. Ebrahim Moosa, director of the Center for Islamic Studies at the University of Cape Town, agrees. PA-GAD's actions last Sunday [4 August] were merely a motion of no-confidence in the state, about poor law enforcement. "It was a message signalling their desperation, meant to draw government's attention to their plight," says Moosa.

South Africa: Explosion at Pretoria West Station; Police Suspect Bomb

MB1208060096 Johannesburg SApf Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A report just in says there has been a blast at Pretoria West Station. At this stage there are no details, but police say it may have been a bomb.

[Johannesburg Sapa in English 0522 GMT 12 Aug adds the following: "A suspected bomb exploded in a ticket office at the Properitas railway station next door to the Technikon Pretoria early on Monday [12 August] morning. Captain Dave Harrington told Sapa there were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries and police were combing the scene.

"Police experts on the scene told a Sapa reporter the blast was at about 6:10am [0140 GMT]. Police were treating the blast as a suspected bomb, given the amount of damage to the ticket office and its surroundings."

South Africa: South African Press Review for 9 Aug
MB0908124896

[FBIS Report]

MAIL & GUARDIAN

ANC Retreats Into Cover-Up Laager — Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN in English on 9 August, received via Internet, commenting on the "Kerzner/Holomisa imbroglio" says the issue of corruption in the ANC "while troubling, is not the most worrying factor. It

is rather the effect a succession of these sorts of rows is having on the character of the ruling party." The ANC has shown itself to be "highly sensitive to criticism, which it resents with a bitterness that smacks of vanity. When the flak flies, it retreats into the laager so familiar to the past: taking refuge behind the covered wagons of party 'unity,' firing denials and angry denunciations at the circling press." "When it begins gagging its members with ministerial sackings, 'disciplinary' inquiries, threats of legal action and other exercises in the art of cover-up, the ANC betrays itself and sets precedents which are hugely destructive of the country's future. And for that there should be no forgiveness."

Criticism of Clinton's Welfare Deal — A second editorial says: "The original thrust of Clinton's campaign proposal four years ago was to provide new jobs for many of those out of work, and funds to enable them to be trained, so that the huge federal budget could be cut as 'welfare checks were replaced with pay checks.' But the Bill that has now been passed cuts the welfare without guaranteeing the workfare." "Clinton has argued that the Bill is at least less bad than before: It is no longer linked to cuts in Medicare and represents a 'real step forward.' What it really represents, as the Washington Post has put it, is 'political expediency and opportunism,' with the president seeking to neutralise Bob Dole's anti-welfare pitch to the electors."

THE STAR

Militant Trade Unions Undermine Foreign Confidence — "Foreign perceptions of ongoing labour instability here have not only placed downward pressure on the rand, but have also contributed towards a sharp decline in the country's foreign exchange reserves," declares a page-8 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 9 August. "The boomerang this set in motion is now poised to strike at those who launched it on its destructive path. Militant trade unions, having undermined foreign confidence in SA, may soon have to explain to their members why they are faced with higher interest rates as the Reserve Bank is forced to prevent the currency from going into free fall. If they are honest, they will acknowledge the destabilising impact of their actions."

NEW NATION

ANC Commitment To Reconciliation Viewed — The "impending admission" by the ANC to the Truth Commission to the execution of enemy agents during the struggle against apartheid "suggests a sincere and deep commitment to the process of national reconciliation on its part," declares Johannesburg NEW NATION in Eng-

lish on 8 August in a page-10 editorial. The paper urges the National Party to "demonstrate a matching commitment to reconciliation. It too must account for its action during the dark days of apartheid."

South Africa: South African Press Review for 11 Aug

MB1108164596

[FBIS Report]

RAPPORT

State Urged To Act Against Crime — "The actions by Muslims, against drug lords in Cape Town, is disturbing to the entire country," begins a page 10 editorial in the Johannesburg **RAPPORT** in Afrikaans on 11 August. "However, no community in the country is unaffected by crime, gangsterism, drugs, or violence. People look to the state for protection but find that they have to protect themselves. Committees are being established in several places to protect streets, suburbs, and cities. A huge amount of money is spent on professional security services. In some places the 'culture' of nonpayment for services is deeply entrenched. This makes life difficult and unsafe for people who do pay for services.

In a situation where anarchy reigns, people will organize themselves into groups, legally or illegally." "The government must get its act together and attend to these issues. Protection of civilians is a priority. Smooth talking and grandiose plans are no longer believed, not in the strife-torn streets of Cape Town, and certainly not countrywide."

State Blamed For Weak Currency — A second editorial on the same page notes: "The rand has come under strong pressure over the past week, despite Reserve Bank attempts to prop up the currency. Several reasons have been given over the past few months to explain the currency's decline. However, the real reason for the shocking drop in the rand's value is symptomatic of a deep-seated lack of confidence in the state." "Recently, government eventually released the long-awaited macro-economic plan, but this was not enough. U.S. investors have said that government cannot meet its promises, and urged it to immediately implement its economic plan." "In tomorrow's parliamentary sitting the ANC will have to clearly show that it has sorted out divisions in its own ranks, and that it will implement its economic plan with determination."

Angola

Angola: UN Needs \$48 Million for Demobilization Process

MB1208080996 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Angola Verification Mission-3 has issued a communique saying that there may be problems in the first stage of the demobilization and social reintegration of soldiers due to lack of funds, noting that it needs \$48 million for the process.

The demobilization program, which begins on 26 August, provides for a donation of clothing and food to demobilized soldiers in addition to training, job creation, and reunification of families. The international community must provide \$66 million and the Angolan Government another \$66 million for the whole process. Out of the 100,000 government and National Union for the Total Independence of Angola soldiers to be demobilized, 7,500 are under 18 and 30,000 are disabled.

Swaziland

Swaziland: Prime Minister Sworn In, Outlines Policies

MB0908171596 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The new prime minister, Dr. Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini, has been sworn in by the attorney general with promises that under his leadership the government will be transparent and accountable. He says the government's agenda will be open not hidden, its mistakes will be obvious not disguised. Speaking in his usual cool voice shortly after taking the oath of allegiance to the King and the entire Swazi nation at the Government House this afternoon, Dr. Dlamini said he wants to see better communications to show the nation the integrity of government's actions. The actions will be explained to the people without fail; he confirms that not every decision will be popular with the people. The rule of law will be upheld and no one group is beyond the law he said. The new prime minister further promises that he is going to ensure that the country's policies and programs are relevant to the country's needs. He will do this in consultation with the people. He makes it clear that the process of consultation which he has already started is not going to be an excuse for indecision.

In another development, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sishayi Nxumalo says there is no doubt that Swaziland is going to prosper under the leadership of the new prime minister, Dr. Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini. Dr. Dlamini says in order to steer the country to greater

heights, Dr. Dlamini needs support and honest guidance from the nation. [sentence as heard] The deputy prime was the master of ceremonies at the prime minister's swearing-in ceremony attended by close to 100 dignitaries, made up of mainly Cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, and high ranking government officials. Dr. Dlamini told the gathering that the new prime minister is going to lead an open government in nowadays changing time. [sentence as heard]

Dr. Dlamini is the third former student of Franson Christian High School to become a prime minister. The first was Prince Makhosini at independence in 1968, the second was Senator Obed Dlamini. Senator Dlamini was present in the ceremony together with other former prime ministers, namely, Prince Mbilini, Prince Mabandla, Prince Bhekimpi, and Mr. Sotsha Dlamini.

Swaziland: Deputy Prime Minister Reportedly To Resign

MB1008151396 Mbabane WEEKEND OBSERVER in English 10-11 Aug 96 pp 1-2

[Report by Pat Jele]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Sishayi Nxumalo is resigning from Government — a letter to his private secretary and driver reflects.

It was stated that Dr Nxumalo plans to request His Majesty King Mswati III to relieve him from his Cabinet post soon.

Dr Nxumalo says he will not get involved with political parties, but wants to concentrate on his business. However, Dr Nxumalo says his loyalty to the King and the country and respect for Swazi Culture are unshaken by his latest intentions.

In recent times, Dr Nxumalo has repeatedly stated that he will retire from politics because he was getting old and there was too much pressure "up there."

He is said to have already informed his private secretary Mr Sibonelo Dlamini and his driver a Mr Magagula, through official correspondence of his intention to resign from government. However, both Mr Dlamini and Mr Magagula could not be reached for comment at the time of going to press.

Dr Nxumalo is said to have intimated that he is quitting politics to concentrate on his businesses.

It was reliably established yesterday that Dr Nxumalo informed the two that his loyalty to the King and the country together with his strong belief in the Swazi way of doing things prevented him from simply throwing a resignation without considering the consequences

thereof. This is contained in a letter said to have been written by Dr Nxumalo to one of his employees, Mr Dlamini (his private secretary).

Dr Nxumalo states that it is important therefore for him to get an early opportunity to discuss this matter with His Majesty King Mswati III and the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini to ascertain that his departure from Cabinet will not upset them or disturb the country's delicate political situation at this stage.

He is believed to have told Mr Dlamini in the letter that his intention is to go back to business and play the role his friend Cyril Ramaphosa (ANC Secretary General) is going to play in South Africa in boosting business.

In the letter, Dr Nxumalo is said to have told Mr Dlamini: "The challenge to do this actually came from the King last week when he expressed disappointment that there was not much being done by Swazi businessmen. I felt that the King's feelings were genuine and needed strong consideration."

He assured Mr Dlamini that he will not at this stage in his life entertain getting involved in parties and politics, saying he will always support whichever side the King's interests lie.

"It is unfortunate that I cannot give this move a timeframe, but I would hope it is sufficient for you to make your own decisions remembering that I promised to help you in whatever matter appropriate so as to enable you to have a bright future which I am sure you certainly deserve," Dr Nxumalo is said to have told Mr Dlamini.

Dr Nxumalo is the fourth man to hold the post of Deputy Prime Minister, others being, Dr Mfundza Sukati, Dr Zonke Khumalo and Mr Ben Mshamndane Nsibandze.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: Air Zimbabwe Flight Diverted To Pick Up 'Ailing' Nkomo

MB0908125096 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1139 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE Aug 9 SAPA—
Passengers on an Air Zimbabwe flight direct from

London to Harare this week were enraged to find themselves diverted to Cairo and held up there for two hours while the aircraft took on ailing vice-president Joshua Nkomo, a large retinue, and a mass of luggage, reports said here on Friday [9 August].

Both the state-owned daily HERALD newspaper and the non-partisan weekly Zimbabwe INDEPENDENT said passengers boarding at Gatwick on Monday were handed a letter by Air Zimbabwe staff which said they had been instructed "at very short notice" to divert the aircraft to Cairo "to collect additional passengers."

It turned out to be Nkomo, who flew to Egypt a month ago for treatment following an operation in Cape Town in May for prostate cancer.

The newspapers quoted angry passengers as saying the aircraft had to wait for Nkomo to arrive at the airport. The delay was made even longer because "his luggage took so long to load when it did arrive."

He was accompanied by 10 members of his staff, and passengers reported seeing television and video sets among the luggage. The passengers had to stay on board the aircraft during the wait in Cairo, and were not allowed to telephone Harare to advise relatives and colleagues of the hold-up.

Businessmen said they missed appointments scheduled for Tuesday morning. A special sleeping area had been laid out for the 79-year-old vice-president on the plane, who is now recovering at home in Harare.

Air Zimbabwe spokesman David Mwenga said the government had paid for the diversion of the flight. He apologised to passengers but said that "the airline felt it was a genuine request that required our support."

Last year Nkomo was quoted in the local press as saying that "if we want to get a seat on the plane, we just tell the other passengers to get off."

Cote d'Ivoire**Cote d'Ivoire: President Makes Minor Cabinet Reshuffle**

AB1008154096 Abidjan La Chaine Une Television Network in French 1300 GMT 10 Aug 96

[Communique issued by the Office of the President in Abidjan on 10 August — read by Kouassi Yao, secretary general of Cote d'Ivoire; recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Henri Konan Bedie, president of the Republic, at the proposal of the prime minister, today carried out a minor reshuffle of the cabinet as follows: The number of ministers remains unchanged, that is to say, 30 as before.

Four ministers are leaving the government. They are: Leon Konan Koffi, previously minister of state in charge of religious affairs and dialogue with the opposition; Gaston Ouassenan Kone, previously minister of security; Ferdinand Kakou Angoran, previously minister of commerce; and Robert Guei, previously minister of sports.

Four new ministers are entering the government. They are: Kouakou Brou, keeper of the seals, minister of justice and public freedom; (Marcel Dibona Kone), minister of security; Nicolas Kouassi Akon, minister of commerce; and Sidibe Soumahoro, minister of sports.

Two other ministers change portfolios. They are: Faustin Kouame, formerly keeper of the seals, minister of justice and public freedom, who now becomes minister in charge of presidential affairs; and Lancine Gon Coulibaly, formerly minister of tourism and handicrafts, who now becomes minister of handicrafts development.

Furthermore, a High Commission on Tourism has been established with Eugene Kindo Bouadi as head of this commission.

Cote d'Ivoire: Gendarmerie High Commander Named Security Council Head

AB1008170396 Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaine Nationale-Une Network in French 1230 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During yesterday's cabinet meeting, it was disclosed that General Joseph Tanny Ehueny, Gendarmerie high commander, has been appointed secretary general of the National Security Council by presidential decree. The cabinet was also informed of the appointment of Colonel Gbamele Kone as commander of the operation zone created along the Ivorian western border as part of security measures.

In order to implement the emergency security measures, the government has, to date, disbursed an additional sum

of 873.123 million CFA francs in the 1996 budget to equip the police force and the Gendarmerie. [passage omitted]

The Gambia**The Gambia: New Constitution Favored by 73.2 Percent of Voters**

AB0908140096 Paris AFP in English 1138 GMT 9 Aug 96

[Report by Deyda Hydarra]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Banjul, Aug 9 (AFP) — Gambians have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new constitution aimed at restoring democracy to the west African country two years after a bloodless military coup, according to initial results Friday [9 August].

Gambian television said 73.2 percent of electors voted "Yes" in Thursday's referendum, according to results from more than half the country's constituencies.

It reported a strong 80-percent turnout for the vote, held two years after the coup led by young army captain Yahya Jammeh ousted Sir Dawda Jawara, who had ruled the English-speaking west African nation for 30 years.

A yes vote for the constitution, which has come under some international criticism, will pave the way for elections for a head of state and a national assembly before the end of the year, although the exact timing is uncertain.

Definitive results are due to be announced by electoral commission chairman Gabriel Roberts later Friday, which has been declared a public holiday.

The television figures, covering 21 of Gambia's 41 constituencies, showed 73,004 votes in favour of the new constitution and 26,689 against. Almost 450,000 people were eligible to vote.

Only two constituencies voted no — Jarra West, the stronghold of Yahya Ceesay, a former minister under Jawara, and Lower Baddibu, another traditional opposition region.

Casting his ballot in the capital on Thursday, Jammeh, 31, urged Gambians to take part in the process toward democracy, saying: "The referendum is meant to empower the people."

Gambians heeded his call, with reports of queues of people, some up to a kilometre (half a mile) long, outside some polling booths in the capital and neighbouring suburbs.

The final draft of the constitution, published only four days before the referendum, proposes a parliamentary

system in which the national assembly can dismiss both the government and the president by a two-thirds majority vote.

The referendum is the result of a pledge by Jammeh, who seized power in July 1994, to bring about return to civilian rule in two years — a vow made under pressure from western creditors.

Presidential candidates have to be aged between 30 and 65. That makes Jammeh eligible, though he has never spoken of running for office, but eliminates Jawara, aged 72.

Jawara, who took refuge in London, still faces charges relating to an alleged fraud involving 41 million dollars raised by the sale of crude oil supplied by Nigeria.

The constitution provides for a special court to fight corruption, and bars from elective office anyone sacked for corruption or embezzlement. That means most of the luminaries of the previous regime, more than 30 of whom are still in prison, will be unable to run for the presidency.

Jammeh is well regarded here for the pitiless way he has tackled corruption and for managing to get the country back to work.

However, Amnesty International had criticised the final draft, saying it still contains "alarming threats" to human rights.

"It is essential that no government has the power to violate fundamental human rights such as the right to life and freedom from torture," the organisation said Wednesday.

Amnesty said it was concerned that the constitution grants the military government, its ministers and all appointees total immunity from prosecution. "This denies victims of human rights violations their right to judicial remedies."

In addition, the new law allows fundamental human rights to be removed in any unspecified "state of public emergency," which would leave Gambians vulnerable, it said.

Last month, Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku said while he was satisfied with Jammeh's efforts toward democracy, he was still concerned about the continued ban on political parties.

Jammeh has promised to lift the ban immediately after the referendum, which would leave one month to prepare for the presidential poll which he says is to be held on September 11.

But the electoral commission, responsible for organising elections, is recommending a delay of three months after the party ban is lifted.

The Gambia: Official Figures Released; Voters Favor Constitution

AB0908192896 Paris AFP in English
1913 GMT 9 Aug 96

[Report by Deyda Hydarra]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Banjul, 9 Aug (AFP) — Gambians have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new Constitution aimed at restoring democracy to the West African country two years after a bloodless military coup, the Electoral Commission chairman said Friday [9 August].

The chairman Gabriel Roberts said 70.4 percent had voted "yes" in Thursday's referendum, held two years after the coup, led by 31 year-old Army Captain Yahya Jammeh, ousted Sir Dawda Jawara, who had ruled the English-speaking West African nation for 30 years.

According to official figures, 270,193 votes were cast in favour and 113,744 against, as more than 80 percent of the electorate took part in the poll. Only two of the country's 41 constituencies opposed the proposed Constitution, which foresees parliamentary democracy under which a two-thirds parliamentary majority vote of censure can dismiss the president.

The next step in the democratic process will be a lifting of the ban on political parties imposed when Jammeh came to power.

Approval of the Constitution, which has faced international criticism, also paves the way for elections for a head of state and a national assembly before the end of the year, although the exact timing is uncertain.

Casting his ballot in the capital Thursday, Jammeh urged Gambians to take part in the process toward democracy, saying: "The referendum is meant to empower the people." [passage omitted]

Ghana

Ghana: Paper Says Highway Bandits Allegedly Liberian Refugees

AB1108160396 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English
1300 GMT 11 Aug 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The WEEKLY SPECTATOR is worried that bandits have made the Accra-Winneba

Road unsafe for travelers. It says those who have encountered these gangsters have described them as ruthless people who speak with a distinctive Liberian accent.

The SPECTATOR thinks enough is enough. If those perpetrating these heartless vices are indeed Liberians, then they have grossly abused the Ghanaian hospitality offered them when they were in dire distress, seeking refuge in this country.

Liberia

Liberia: Legislator Shot, Killed in 'New Wave of Violence'

AB0908140496 Paris AFP in English
1046 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, Aug 9 (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen shot and killed a member of Liberia's interim parliament in what authorities described as a new wave of violence in the capital, a government statement said Friday [9 August].

It said civilian representative in the Transitional Legislative Assembly (TLA), Saa Vincent, was shot and killed Wednesday night in Monrovia's suburban Paynesville while en route to his home.

Police said they were investigating the killing but no one has been arrested and the motive behind the killing is yet unknown. Police, quoting a witness, said Vincent was attacked at a roadblock laid by his attackers in a driveway to his house.

The witness said the gunmen took away Vincent's vehicle and money before shooting him "several times, and then fled." Another witness said before the shots went off he heard Vincent say: "You have taken away everything. Leave me now."

The killing of Vincent comes in the wake of reports of a wave of secret killings and abductions in and around Monrovia, including the murder last week of two teenage girls in Monrovia's Congotown eastern suburb by unidentified gunmen, and the abduction early this week of a man who was forced into a waiting vehicle on Broad Street in central Monrovia.

No one has been arrested in connection with any of the incidents. Parliament Speaker, Morris Dukuly, on Friday described the incidents as "dangerous and unhealthy to the peace process." He said the incidents "have grave implication for the security of Monrovia and its environs," and urged African peacekeepers here "to remain vigilant."

Liberia: Calm Returns After Shooting in Monrovia

AB1108131596 Paris AFP in English
1227 GMT 11 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, Aug 11 (AFP) — Sporadic shooting in the Liberian capital caused pandemonium among thousands of residents who ran helter-skelter in search of refuge anywhere, witnesses said Sunday [11 August].

One witness said the shooting started about 6:00 p.m. (1800 GMT) Saturday on Clay Street and Camp Johnson Road and later spread to surrounding areas near the Barclay Training Center (BTC), the downtown military barracks where most Krahn militias reside.

The witness told AFP "most residents packed up a few belongings, including mattresses and food items, and fled toward the diplomatic enclave of Mamba Point as the shooting intensified for nearly one hour before (the African peacekeeping force) ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] brought the situation under control."

Witnesses said heavily armed ECOMOG troops backed by tanks quelled the situation and advised remaining residents in the area not to leave.

Another witness said the shooting incident followed fisticuffs between relatives of two Krahn generals over a looted mattress claimed by both groups.

"They then took up traditional weapons, including machetes, wounding several persons, and chanting war-like songs such as the war is not over." The witness told AFP that one person was killed in the shootout near the BTC but his body was removed overnight.

General Philip Kamah, Liberia's deputy armed forces chief of staff, said Sunday that the incident was a result of a quarrel between two residents on Clay Street. He dismissed as "false" rumours that Krahn militias wanted a fresh round of fighting in the capital, which was devastated by factional fighting that erupted in April.

Meanwhile, Monrovia remained calm Sunday.

Mali

Mali: Francophone Council Official Urges Solidarity With Burundi

AB0908122596 Paris AFP in French
1124 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bamako, 8 Aug (AFP) — Emile Derlin Zinsou, former president of Benin and chairman of the Permanent Council of the Francophone

Movement, on 6 August in Bamako called for solidarity with Burundi.

This solidarity could consist, he stated, of "bringing together the parties in presence in Burundi and asking them to accept living together. That cannot be done by coercion."

"We can help them by repairing the damage done by the conflict, helping their schools, the judiciary, and social

services," Mr. Zinsou added. He was speaking to the press after an audience with Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare.

He also indicated that his discussions with President Konare and National Assembly Speaker Nouhoun Diallo focused on modernizing the Francophone institutions.

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